

LITERARY NOTES.

A new edition of Henry Giles's "Human Life in Shakespeare" with a new introduction by John Boyle O'Reilly is in the press of Lee & Shepard. Mr. Giles is now an invalid whose duties and employments are necessarily sadly restricted.

It is to be hoped that the literary taste of this country is not to be gauged by the fact that "Mrs. Mayburn's Twins," a book in which Mr. Habberton has served up "Helen's Babies" hashed and rewarmed, has gone into a sixth edition.

A volume entitled "Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: A Medley in Prose and Verse," by Richard Henry Stoddard, is about to be issued by G. W. Harlan & Co. It is to be a collection of reminiscences, criticism, and regret by well-known writers.

Miss Edith Simcox's book, "Episodes in the Lives of Men, Women and Lovers," is to be republished in this country by J. R. Osgood & Co. Miss Simcox is sometimes spoken of in England as the inheritor of the mantle that dropped from George Eliot's shoulders.

Teachers and pupils in literature may soon look for a "Round Robin Literary Series" of cards containing pertinent facts concerning eminent authors and their works, specially prepared for their benefit by Miss Kate A. Sanborn. J. R. Osgood & Co are the publishers.

Six hundred and forty-five letters and of Frederic the Great have just been given to the world in the eleventh volume of the series of publications containing the Royal Prussian Archives. Some of the letters contain pithy epigrammatic postscripts in the King's own hand.

Mr. W. J. Linton has published an edition of 225 copies of an exquisite collection of English lyrics and madrigals, many of them rescued from forgotten byways of literature. Mr. Linton himself set up and put to press the beautiful volume, which is, moreover, illustrated by his own pencil and graver. The book is a gem both in printing and illustration.

The children of literary people are not always themselves lovers of the pen. One exception may be quoted in the person of the only child of Bayard Taylor. This young lady has much literary ability, and has shown both skill and taste in her translations of German poetry into English. The report that she has received a thousand dollars from Mr. Booth for translating some of his plays into German is now said to have been a mistake.

A report comes by way of Washington that Colonel John Hay and Mr. Nicolay have finished two of the six volumes of their "Life of Abraham Lincoln." Each volume is about the size of a volume of " Bancroft's History." It is understood that the work will be not only a biography but an epitome of the strange, eventful time in which its subject moved. The authors are making haste slowly, carefully digesting by the way the historical documents which the Government is now engaged in publishing.

Mr. Swinburne has been asked to contribute to the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" a biographical article on Mary Queen of Scots. To this task he will address himself as soon as he has finished his narrative poem in nine cantos, "Tristram of Lyonesse." He is now engaged upon the last canto.

His next volume will shortly appear, and will include with this long poem about fifty lyrics, nearly all of which are short. The larger part of them are studies of childhood or songs about children. Besides these there will be presented several odes and sonnets on literary, historical and political subjects—among them twenty-one sonnets on the English dramatic poets from 1590 to 1650.

Serjeant Ballantine's opinion of Thackeray, as stated in his volume of reminiscences, goes to prove the shallowness of the worthy lawyer's judgment. "I never," he says, "thought him an agreeable companion. He was very egotistical, greedy of flattery, and sensitive of criticism to a ridiculous extent. He may have possessed great powers of conversation, but did not exhibit them upon the occasions when I had an opportunity of judging."

The last time I saw him was about three weeks before his death. He was sitting alone at a table at Evans's, poring over an obscure Irish journal in which some derogatory remarks about himself were published. He attributed them to an individual whom I need not name, and was intensely angry, which I confess I thought at the time was entirely absurd."

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